Action against economic offenders

334. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids against economic offenders from February, 1987 to January, 1989 have yielded Rs. 812.31 crores ('Financial Express'—29th March, 1989);

(b) whether 5654 persons were arrested for these offences;

(c) what is the minimum and maximum period for which they were kept in prison without trial; and

(d) how many of these offenders were in prison as on 1st January, 1989 in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) During the period February, 1987 to January, 1989 Income-tax, Anti-smuggling and Central Excise authorities seized unaccounted assets and goods worth about Rs. 805 crores. 5688 persons were arrested during the period.

(c) and (d) Under COFEPOSA Act, 1974 no person can be detained for a period longer than three months without obtaining the opinion of the Advisory Board and no person can be detained for a period more than two years in any case.

1055 persons were under actual detention under COFEPOSA as on 31.1.1989. State-wise figures are not maintained separately.

335. (*Transferred to the 5th May*, 1989)

Indian Cost accounts services

336. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the name of the authority responsible for administrating Indian Cost Accounts Service;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same authority is responsible for postings and transfers in the Service;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no systematic policy has been followed in regard to transfers and as a result officers have managed to stay in the same organisation for decades during their service career;

(d) what is the period for which an officer is allowed to stay as per the rules and how many instances of overstay have come to the notice of the authorities;

(e) whether his Ministry has taken any steps to rectify the situation; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The Indian Cost Accounts Service is administered by Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).

(b) Yes, Sir. Postings and transfers of the officers of the service are made by Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) in consultation with the Chief Adviser (Cost).

(c) and (d) There is at present no scheme in the Indian Cost Accounts Service in regard to rotational transfer. As far as possible, rotation of officers is being carried out in consultation with the participating organisations. As there has been a general shortage of officers in the Indian Cost Accounts Service, rotation of officers is being done, keeping in view the requirements of the participating organisations/ Ministries, their ability to spare officers at different levels and the availability of suitable replacements. Generally officers are transferred from one office to another, without disruption of work in the participating organisations on completion of 5 years' service. It is incorrect that any officer by himself has managed to stay in the same organisation for number of years.

(e) and (f) All possible efforts are being made to fill up the existing vacancies at various levels in the Indian Cost Accounts Service. Once the position in this regard improves, the transfer of officers would be regulated in a more systematic manner.

Survey of West flowing rivers

337. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu Government had made a request in 1987 that a survey of 28 basins of west flowing rivers may be undertaken for solving water scarcity in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the number of basins in respect of which survey has been completed so far and the action taken thereon; and

(d) by what time the survey of the remaining basins will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) Peninsular River Development component of the National Perspectives include water balance studies of 28 basins/ sub-basins of west flowing rivers. The National Water Development Agency under the Ministry of Water Resources has already completed these studies for four basins/sub-basins and it is programmed to complete studies on the remaining basins/sub-basins by the end of VIII Five Year Plan.

Modernisation of Cauvery Delta

338. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken on the Tamil Nadu Government's proposal for modernisation of the Cauvery Delta with World Bank aid for effective utilisation of available water in the Cauvery river; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in the clearance of this proposal which is pending with Central Government since 1983?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The Cauvery Delta Modernisation Project could not be posed to the World Bank for assistance in the absence of an understanding between the riparian States for sharing of the Cauvery waters.

Economic officers against former President, NCCF

339. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2565 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1988 and state:

(a) whether the Centralised Senior Assessing Officer of Income Tax Department has since completed the indepth investigation and finalised assessments pertaining to former President, NCCF; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. Investigation in the relevant cases is still in progress.

(b) In view of answer to part (a), does not arise.

Setting up of permanent wage review board for review of pay scales etc. of Central Government Employees

340. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any memorandum/representation from the Central Government employees or their unions for the setting up of a permanent wage review board to periodically review pay scales, allowances and service conditions as recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission;